Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FDRE-00 AID-05 DPW-01

SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 726

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USDEL JEC PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL COPENHAGEN 1039

DEPARTMENT PASS SAIGON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VS, VN, DA SUBJECT: DANISH AID TO VIETNAM

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 962, B. COPENHAGEN 931, C. SAIGON 4511

1. PARLIAMENTARY FINANCE COMMITTEE ON APRIL 9 APPROVED AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OF DKR. 12 MILLION (\$2.2 MILLION) FOR ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM. THE BULK OF THE AMOUNT IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE DANISH RED CROSS AND THE REMAINDER TO THE DANISH CHURCH RELIEF FUND. ADDITIONALLY, THE DANISH AID ADMINISTRATION (DANIDA) INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE PRESENTLY PREPARING A PROPOSAL FOR A DANISH RESPONSE,

EARLY NEXT WEEK, TO THE APPEAL FOR COORDINATED UN ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. DANIDA EXPECTS THE DANISH GOVERNMENT RESPONE TO BE POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH THE TIGHT BUDGETARY SITUATION WILL BE A CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEM.

- 2. THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUSLY PLEDGED DKR. 150 MILLION (\$27.5 MILLION) LOAN TO DRVN (REFS A AND B) WAS THE SUBJECT OF A BRIEF EXCHANGE IN PARLIAMENT APRIL 9. CONSERVATIVE MP STETTER ASKED FONMIN K.B. ANDERSEN TO CONDEMN DRVN AGGRESSION TO WHICH THE FONMIN REPLIED THAT DENMARK ALWAYS DISAPPROVED TERRITORIAL GAINS BY VIOLENCE AND REGRETTED THAT NETHER PARTY IN VIETNAM HAD ADHERED TO THE PARIS AGREEMNTS. HE REFUSED, HOWEVER, TO WITHDRAW THE REOUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE LOAN.
- 3. IN A SUBSEQUENT PRESS STATEMENT, CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER NINN HANSEN SAID HIS PARTY WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER WITH A REQUEST FOR A GENERAL FLOOR DEBATE NEXT WEEK.ACCORDING TO THE PARLIAMENT'S SECRETARIAT, FORMAL REQUEST FOR A GENERAL DEBATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SUBMITTED. IT WOULD NEED MAJORITY SUPPORT FROM THE FLOOR.
- 4. EMBASSY COMMENT. DESPITE HIS INITIAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT PRESENTING THE PROPOSED DKR. 150 MILLION DRVN LOAN FOR APPROVAL AT THIS TIME, FONMIN ANDERSEN APPEARS BOUND TO PUSH THE ISSUE NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT INTO OPEN DEBATE. WHILE THE NON-SOCIALIST PRESS HAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE LOAN PROPOSAL, WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT THE

CONSERVATIVES (NOW A MINOR PARTY IN PARLIAMENT) HAVE OBTAINED MUCH SUPPORT AMONG THE MP'S FOR THEIR STAND. THEY MAY, THEREFORE, HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING A MAJORITY FOR A FLOOR DEBATE ON THE ISSUE. IN ANY EVENT, CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED CONSIDERABLY SINCE EMBASSY SAIGON'S COMMENTS (REF C) ON FONMIN ANDERSEN'S STATEMENT TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD DELAY SUBMISSION OF THE DRVN LOAN TO PARLIAMENT (REF B). GIVEN ANDERSEN'S PRESENT POSITION, WE HAVE NOTHING ON WHICH TO CONGRATULATE HIM.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SAIGON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DEVELOPMENT LOANS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 11 APR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH01039

Document Number: 1975COPENH01039 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750128-0612 From: COPENHAGEN Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750459/aaaaccqu.tel Line Count: 94

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COPENHAGEN 962, 75 COPENHAGEN 931, 75 SAIGON 4511

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: RowellE0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 09 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: DANISH AID TO VIETNAM TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VS, VN, DA To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006